

Representative

Zack Hudgins

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Our traffic congestion has gotten worse as we've grown in population. We are spending way too much time stuck in traffic. And because of our traffic problems, businesses are unable to move goods around the state. It's having a choking effect on our economy and our quality of life...

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■ *We have met calls for accountability and reform:*

The House of Representatives earlier passed a package of accountability and efficiency measures to streamline transportation planning and make sure our funds are spent wisely. (House Bills 2227 and 1122)

■ *Now we're moving ahead with a responsible proposal for funding our transportation needs:*

We're proposing a modest increase in the gas tax to start making progress again. Think of it as a user fee: Those who cause the most wear on our roads will pay a little extra at the pump. We're talking about 3-5 cents per gallon. When you figure in inflation, we haven't increased the amount we spend on transportation in over 13 years. We've got to invest in our transportation system to help business, create jobs and start making progress.

■ *Our district will benefit directly:*

Here are some of the ways in which we could benefit from such a plan:

- HOV Lanes on I-5 from Pierce County to Tukwila
- Creation of a new SR 167 corridor between SR 509 and SR 161
- HOV Lanes on Highway 167 from 15th SW to 15th NW
- An interchange improvement on I-405 between West Valley Highway and Maple Valley

■ *Prioritized projects:*

We looked at all the possible projects and chose ones that accomplish the following:

- Make our roadways safer
- Are ready to go and will provide jobs now – when we need them
- Complete a project or a critical stage of a project
- Preserve our existing roadways
- Provide economic and safety benefits that outweigh costs

I wanted to keep you informed on a problem that affects us all. Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts on any of the information on this postcard. If you disagree with the plan currently under consideration, please share any alternative ideas you may have. Everybody's input is valued and appreciated. Most of all, I look forward to making progress with you on this issue. Sincerely,



Representative Zack Hudgins

■ *For more information on transportation in our state:*

Washington State Dept. of Transportation:
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/>
House of Representatives Transportation Committee: <http://htc.leg.wa.gov/>

■ *To contact my office:*

(360) 786-7956

■ *To leave comments with the Legislative Hotline:*

1-800-562-6000